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Definition

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1) In general, open source refers to any program whose source code is made available for use or modification as users or other developers see fit. Open source software is usually developed as a public collaboration and made freely available.

2) Open Source is a certification mark owned by the Open Source Initiative ([OSI](#)). Developers of software that is intended to be freely

shared and possibly improved and redistributed by others can use the Open Source trademark if their distribution terms conform to the OSI's Open Source Definition. To summarize, the Definition model of distribution terms require that:

- The software being distributed must be redistributed to anyone else without any restriction.
- The source code must be made available (so that the receiving party will be able to improve or modify it).
- The license can require improved versions of the software to carry a different name or version from the original software.

The idea is very similar to that behind free software and the Free Software Foundation.

**Related glossary terms:** LAMP (Linux, Apache, MySQL, PHP), Wine (Wine is not an emulator), Nagios, Secure Shell Charter (SSH Charter), Samba, distribution, Pascal, Lex (lexical analyzer generator), cellspace, Sybase

*This was last updated in November 2000*

## Dig Deeper

- Getting a handle on UCS: Advantages and costs

Unified computing systems (UCS) hold the promise of simplicity for data center, but the technology and associated costs may not be appropriate for every application. Learn about the potential of UCS to help your data center, and what you should consider prior to implementation.

- Getting a handle on UCS: Vendor lock-in, interoperability and implementation

The shortfalls of UCS include the potential for vendor lock-in and interoperability issues. Learn more about these and what you need to know to deploy a UCS in your data center. Some implementation considerations include storage, hypervisors, and a contingency plan in case your vendor changes course.

- Energy costs and data center complexity creating 'perfect storm,' says Avocent exec

Rising energy costs and increasing data center complexity require the merging of IT and facilities tasks, says an Avocent exec, who will present at this year's LinuxWorld conference.

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IT professionals looking to maximize application performance should look beyond basic software tuning and consider products from vendors who are pathing their software and hardware.

- [Data center design tips: What you should know about ASHRAE TC 9.9](#)

Following the data center design and cooling standards recommended by ASHRAE TC 9.9 will help IT professionals improve facility safety and efficiency.

- [Are data center providers in trouble?](#)

A paradigm shift promises to help cloud providers, but may be harsh on facilities providers and other IT outsourcing businesses.

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Implementing a virtual DR plan is a cost-effective and efficient way to keep business up and running after a disaster.

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- What's your most terrifying virtualization management story?

We asked our advisory board to share their most terrifying virtualization management tales. Their stories may scare you ... into another career.

- The network and x86: Virtualization's new frontier

In this Q&A, Vyatta CEO Kelly Herrell predicts that the next use for x86 servers will be running the network as well as compute in virtualized data centers.

- Cloud computing

- Azure updates may leave Windows shops wanting more

Analyst firm highlights key developments in Windows Azure and points out where the service still has holes.

- Enterprise cloud licensing basics

Managing software licenses is challenging, and cloud only increases that complexity. Start early; keep licensing models in mind when building clouds.

- IT shop goes for costly Verizon cloud over AWS, Azure

For its CaaS cloud, Verizon makes customers sign a one-year deal and pay a premium price. Still, one company elected for the services over AWS, Azure.

- Enterprise Desktop

- Configuration profiles: An iPad administrator's best friend

The influx of iPads and other mobile devices into the enterprise may worry IT administrators, but configuration profiles allow for centralized management of iOS devices.

- It's not too soon to think about Windows 8 licensing

Microsoft licensing is getting even more convoluted with the future release of Windows 8. Our expert explains why it's a good idea to start thinking about licensing Windows 8 now.

- Top features worth considering in Microsoft Office 2010

In the final segment of his three-part tip, our expert discusses his favorite features in Microsoft Office 2010 -- including Word, Excel and Outlook.

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